

402 West Washington
Room W195
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(888) TEENWORK
(317) 232-2675

Indiana Department of Labor
Bureau of Child Labor

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2001

O'Bannon Gives Teens a Break

Indianapolis, IN – Governor Frank O'Bannon announced today that starting July 1, 2001, working teens will get a rest break thanks to legislation he signed last month. The new law, sponsored by State Representative Jonathan Weinzapfel of Evansville, requires most Indiana employers to provide a 30-minute break to teens, under the age of 18, who work six or more consecutive hours.

"Most teen workers actually have two jobs. They attend school by day and then work by night," said O'Bannon. "That's demanding, and working teens deserve a break,"

The new law requires that these teens receive a break between their third and fifth hours of work, when they are scheduled to work six or more hours. As the law now stands, sixteen and 17 year olds may work up to eight hours a day on school days and up to nine hours on non-school days without a break. Fourteen and 15 year olds may work up to eight hours on non-school days without a break. Both state and federal law limit 14 and 15 year old from working more than three hours on school a day.

"There is a need to stress to our young people that while working develops good ethics and strong work habits, education should be their primary focus at this time in their life," O'Bannon said. "I believe this law is another step in the right direction"

Although the new law affects most Indiana employers, the law exempts camps and other facilities that provide recreational, health, educational, or sectarian related activities, or that

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are operated by a nonprofit entity. The law also exempts farm laborers, domestic service workers, golf caddies, newspaper carriers, teens that have graduated from high school, teens that have completed an approved vocational or special education program, or teens that have withdrawn from school.

Parents, teens, and businesses that have questions about the new law may contact the Indiana Department of Labor's Bureau of Child Labor at 1-888-TEENWORK. They can also learn more about the new law or other requirements of Indiana's child labor laws by logging onto www.teenworker.org.

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This release is available on the Internet at <http://www.state.in.us/labor/childlabor/news.html>

Reporters' contact: Pete Rimsans, (317) 232-2683
